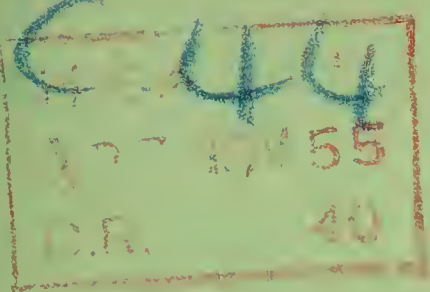


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Northfleet Urban District Council



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1954

BY

M. F. McDONNELL, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

NORTHFLEET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Health Department,
Council Offices,
Northfleet.

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



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NORTHFLEET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year ended 31st December, 1954

BY

M. F. McDONNELL, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

(Medical Officer of Health.)

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
NORTHFLEET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1954 upon the public health circumstances of the Urban District of Northfleet.

POPULATION. The Registrar General's estimate for the year was 19,450, an increase of 170 over the preceding year.

BIRTHS. Births during the year numbered 315; being 169 males and 146 females. This gives a birthrate for the district of 16.19 per 1,000 population—a decrease from 1953, when the number born was 334 and the rate 17.32. The birthrate for England and Wales for 1954 was 15.2.

DEATHS. Deaths in Northfleet during the year numbered 199. This gives a rate per thousand population of 10.23 compared with a rate of 10.63 in 1953. The rate for England and Wales in 1954 was 11.32.

NATURAL INCREASE OF THE POPULATION. Births registered for Northfleet during the year exceeded the deaths by 116. The figure for the corresponding period in 1953 was 129.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE. During the year deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 8, representing a rate of 15.39. The figures for 1953, which were extremely good were 5 and 14.97 respectively. The corresponding rate for England and Wales in 1954 was 15.5.

HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA. A summary of the Health Services provided by the Kent County Council as the Local Health Authority under the National Health Act is included in the usual form in the report.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE PREVENTION. The tables showing the occurrence of notifiable diseases is shown in the report. No cases of diphtheria or poliomyelitis occurred during the year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES. The public water supply in the district remained satisfactory, both from the point of view of quality and quantity. The extension of the main southern sewer is nearing completion, and the Council's housing activity in Bedford Road made necessary a small sewer extension in that area. Improvements to the filtering and sludge drying capacities at the sewage disposal works were carried out during the year.

A short statement of housing work undertaken during the year is included relating to Clearance, demolition and closing of unfit houses, and I have also commented very briefly on some aspects of the duties devolving upon the Public Health Department by the operation of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, which commenced during August, 1954.

I have included a brief report on the position of slaughterhouses at Northfleet which resulted from the changeover from the centralisation of slaughtering during July 1954.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION. Northfleet, as a constituent member of the Thames-Side Advisory Committee for the abatement of atmospheric pollution, continued with its measurement of air pollutants in the district, and I have shown in the report the monthly variations, as shown by the contents of the standard deposit gauge.

In conclusion, I have again to record my appreciation of the help and encouragement afforded me by the Council during the year, and to extend to my fellow officers and staff my appreciation of their co-operation and loyalty.

Your obedient Servant,

M. F. McDONNELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

MEMBERS OF HEALTH COMMITTEE

1954/55 and 1955/56

Councillor T. S. WHITE (Chairman)

„ W. J. DAWSON
„ C. A. HALL
„ MISS I. B. F. McDOUGALL
„ K. H. PRICE
„ E. J. J. C. ROUSE

Member of No. 5 Area Sub-Committee, Kent County Council :

1954/55 Councillor W. J. DAWSON

1955/56 Councillor W. J. DAWSON

Clerk :

Mr. W. G. FUTCHER.

Solicitors : -

MESSRS. CHURCH, BRUCE & CO.

Officers in Public Health Department :

Medical Officer of Health — M. F. McDONNELL, M.B., B.Ch. B.A.O., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector — J. S. COWPLAND, C.S.I.E.B., Meat and Food Inspector.

Additional Sanitary Inspector — A. J. MUNFORD C.S.I.E.B. Meat and Food
Inspector.

Clerk — MISS C. E. KEEN.

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF AREA

Area (Including 397 acres of Tidal and Inland Water and Foreshore)	4,162
Population (Censuc 1951)	18,803
Population (Census 1931)	16,080
Population (Registrar General's Estimate 1954)	19,450
No. of Inhabited Houses (31st December, 1954)	5,939
No. of New Houses erected during the year ended 31st December, 1954	153
Rateable Value, 1954	£131,359
1953	£126,731
1952	£123,297
Sum represented by penny rate, 1954	£554
1953	£515
1952	£522

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT

Northfleet has for its northern boundary the River Thames. On its eastern boundary the Borough of Gravesend. The Rural Districts of Dartford and Strood form the southern boundary and the Urban District of Swanscombe is on the west.

The level of the ground is approximately 0 feet above sea level on the northern boundary and rises to approximately 300 feet on the southern boundary.

The high level of employment has increased considerably over the area during the past few years. The number of people employed in the major industries is shown by the tabulated list below as approximately 6,000.

	M	F	Total
The Amalgamated Press Ltd.	592	168	760
A.P.C.M. (Bevans Works)	641	62	703
Bowater's Thames Paper Mills	1,025	94	1,119
Britannia Lead Co. Ltd.	137	7	144
Gravesend Welding and Electrical Eng. Works Ltd. 109	9	118	
W. T. Henley's Telegraph Co. and Tyre Co. 1,578	1,358	2,936	

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

Births notified during 1954 total 315, being 169 males and 146 females.

The number of births this year, 315, showed a slight decrease compared with the preceding year, as shown in the table below: -

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Number of Births	252	305	280	334	315
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	13.37	16.18	14.62	17.32	16.19
Number of Illegitimate Births	6	7	8	5	9

		Total	M.	F.
Still births :	Legitimate	10	5	5
	Illegitimate	—	—	—

DEATHS.

The registered deaths during the year totalled 199, 102 males and 97 females.

The numbers given are those registered during the year 1954 as adjusted for inward and outward transfers. I am informed that it is not practicable to include with the figures separate records of the inward and outward transfers.

The table below gives the comparison for the previous 4 years: -

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Number of deaths	221	222	226	205	199
Death Rate per 1,000 est. population	11.73	11.77	11.80	10.63	10.23

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :-

Total Infant deaths ... ..	...	...	...	...	8
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births ... ..	...	...	...	...	25.39
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ... ..	...	...	...	...	22.55
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... ..	...	...	...	...	111.11
Deaths from Measles, all ages ... ..	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough, all ages ... ..	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age ... ..	...	...	...	...	4

CAUSES OF DEATH IN NORTHFLEET URBAN DISTRICT, 1954.

Causes of Death.	Male	Female
All causes	102	97
Tuberculosis respiratory	3	—
Tuberculosis, other	—	1
Syphilitic disease	1	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
Cancer of stomach	4	3
Cancer of lung, bronchus	7	—
Cancer of breast	—	2
Cancer of uterus	—	—
Cancer of all other sites	3	11
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—
Diabetes	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	9	16
Coronary disease, angina	13	9
Hypertension with heart disease	4	1
Other heart disease	13	26
Other circulatory disease	1	2
Influenza	1	2
Pneumonia	5	—
Bronchitis	14	6
Other diseases of the respiratory system	1	—
Ulcer of the stomach or duodenum	4	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—
Pregnancy, childbirth abortion	—	1
Congenital malformation	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	9
Motor Vehicle accidents	—	1
All other accidents	4	—
Suicide	—	2
Homicide	—	—

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.
Services available under the National Health Service Act, 1948 and the National Assistance Act, 1948.

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN.

From the 6th July, 1948, the Kent County Council have been the responsible authority for providing these services and I am indebted to the County Medical Officer and his staff for the following information regarding facilities available and hours of attendance at the Clinics: -

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS AND POST-NATAL CLINICS.

Advice and ante-natal care is given and post-natal examinations are carried out:
The Conservative Club, Perry Street—1st and 3rd Wednesday mornings.

CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

These centres are available for giving advice as to the care of infants and children under the age of five years. Infant foods, National Dried Milk and Ministry of Food Vitamin products are issued. A Medical Officer and a Health Visitor are in attendance at each centre.

Council Offices Annexe—Thursday afternoons.

Toddlers, 1st Thursday.

Conservative Club, Perry Street—Wednesday afternoons.

Harden V.C. Memorial Hall—Tuesday Afternoons.

Istead Rise Memorial Centre—1st and 3rd Tuesday Afternoons.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

Facilities for diphtheria immunisation and vaccination are available at the Council Offices, Northfleet on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 to 11 a.m., and at all Child Welfare Centres.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

This service is to provide domestic help for households where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying in, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over compulsory school age. Householders are required to contribute towards the cost in accordance with their means.

Application should be made to: -

Miss J. M. Cook,

District Office,

Arthur Street, Gravesend.

Telephone: Gravesend 166.

HEALTH VISITORS.

These officers are appointed for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of young children, persons suffering from illness and expectant and nursing mothers and as to the measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

The Health Visitors also undertake duties in connection with the School Health Service.

Health Visitors: -

Mrs. M. Marks, S.R.N.

Miss B. O. M. Mayer, S.R.N.

M. & C.W. Department, Council Offices, Northfleet.

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

This service, which is free, is to secure that an adequate number of midwives is employed by the County Council for attending women in their own homes, either as midwives or maternity nurses.

The names and addresses and telephone number of County Midwives in the area are given below.

Midwives: -

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| *Miss L. M. Mills,
85, Whitehill Road, Gravesend. | Gravesend 2980 |
| *Miss E. M. Hudson,
1, Lawrence Drive, Cobham. | Cobham 328 |
| Miss A. J. Woods,
37, Hardy Avenue, Northfleet. | Gravesend 5165 |
| Mrs. D. M. Kemp,
67, Broomfield Road, Swanscombe. | Gravesend 4121 |
- *Miss Mills serves only Burch Road, Cross Road, Lansdowne Square and Pier Road, the remainder of her district being in Gravesend.
- *Miss Hudson serves only Arcadia Road, Downs Road and Lewis Road, all in Istead Rise, the remainder of her district being in Strood Rural District.

Facilities are available to expectant mothers for booking and examination by Midwives at M.C.W. Centre, Council Offices, every other Wednesday 2—4 p.m. and at the M.C.W. Centre, Conservative Club, Perry Street, Northfleet, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 2—4 p.m.

HOME NURSING SERVICE.

This service, which is free, is to secure the attendance of nurses on persons who require nursing in their own homes. Apart from cases of emergency and accident, patients can only be attended when the nurse has been requested to do so by a doctor. At the present time it is not possible to provide a night service.

The names, addresses and telephone numbers of Home Nurses in the area are given below.

Home Nurses: Northfleet Diamond Jubilee Samaritan Fund—
(Nurses: - Mrs. D. Paine, S.R.N., R.F.N.,
16, Lamorna Avenue, Gravesend. Telephone Gravesend 4654.
Mrs. M. O'Flynn, S.R.N.,
211, Old Road West, Gravesend. Telephone Gravesend 6675.)

Both nurses attend at the Council Offices, Northfleet. at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. daily.

COUNTY AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The County Council is responsible for the provision of a comprehensive ambulance service throughout the County. Other than in cases of accident and emergency, no ambulance will be provided except on the recommendation of a doctor, midwife, or hospital, and in the case of sitting-case cars a special form has to be completed and signed by a doctor.

In cases of accident or emergency, if an ambulance is required, telephone '999' or (as indicated in the telephone directory or public telephone box), and ask the operator for "Ambulance."

PROVISION OF NURSING REQUISITES.

Arrangements have been made with the British Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance Brigade for the continuance of the Medical Loan Depots, on behalf of the County Council. The full range of nursing requisities are available at these depots and details of the addresses and the times the depots are open for distribution are available in the district offices. These arrangements are in addition to the loan cupboards kept by District Nurses. The depots deal with all applications for the loan of nursing requisities.

Northfleet: (St. John) Mrs. H. Banks, 137, Vale Road. Monday to Friday. 7-30 p.m.—9 p.m. (Mr. C. J. Sims, Telephone: Gravesend 3517.)

MENTAL WELFARE.

Dr. L. M. Allen, Senior Assistant County Medical Officer, is Medical Officer for Mental Welfare. Dr. Allen's address is County Hall, Maidstone (Telephone : Maidstone 4321.)

An Occupation Centre for mentally defective children is held at the Anglo-Saxon Hall, Berkley Road, Gravesend, from Monday to Friday each week, 10 a.m. to 3-30 p.m., and children from the Northfleet area may attend this Centre if suitable.

BLIND PERSONS.

Information on matters affecting the blind can be obtained from the County Medical Officer, County Hall, Maidstone, (Tel. Maidstone 4321—ext. 588) and the Secretary of the Kent County Association for the Blind, 15, Ashford Road, Maidstone. (Telephone Maidstone 3717.)

Financial assistance is provided by the National Assistance Board, at the address below: -

“Rosedene”, 61, Shepherds Lane, Dartford.

A Local Officer is now available at “Ravenscourt”, Pelham Road, Gravesend. The hours of attendance are 2—4 p.m. daily and 9 a.m.—12 noon on Saturdays.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE.

The following clinics are available for children attending schools in Northfleet: -

Minor Ailments

West Kent House, Station Road, Northfleet. Medical Officer attends every Saturday morning, 9-30 a.m.—12 noon.

Dental

West Kent House, Station Road, Northfleet. Dental Surgeon attends every Monday and Tuesday, alternate Wednesdays and Saturdays. Except in emergencies children are treated by appointment only.

Ophthalmic

Gravesend & North Kent Hospital

Speech Therapy

107, Rochester Rd., Denton, Gravesend.

Child Guidance

Woodside Road, Bexley Heath.

} Attendance at these clinics is by appointment only. Application should be made to the Principal Medical Officer, County Hall, Maidstone.

DISTRICT OFFICERS.

These officers are responsible for:

- (a) Duties as Authorised Officers under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts and Mental Deficiency Acts.
- (b) Acting as representatives of the County Health Department in dealing with inquiries made by the public and arranging for County Health Services to be made available in cases of difficulty.
- (c) Carrying out the duties of the County Council under the National Assistance Act in (i) arranging admissions of old, handicapped and homeless people to residential establishments other than in cases of sickness, and (ii) the care of movable property of patients who are admitted to hospital or to residential establishments provided by the Council, where it appears that there is danger of loss or damage to the property.
- (d) Distribution of Welfare Foods.

District Officer: Mr. G. T. Jeffery, Arthur Street, Gravesend.

Telephone: Gravesend 166.

HOSPITAL SERVICES.

The hospital and specialist services, including institutions for the chronic sick, mental homes, maternity homes, convalescent homes, chest clinics and out patients departments are administered by the Regional Hospital Boards set up by the Minister of Health, the South-East Metropolitan Regional Board is responsible for all hospitals in Kent, but for day-to-day administration Hospital Management Committees have been set up to deal with groups of hospitals. Generally speaking admission to hospital is a matter for the doctor in charge of the patient and he will make arrangements direct with the hospital authorities, calling upon the County Ambulance Service for the removal of the patient to hospital where this is considered necessary.

NURSERY SCHOOL.

The Northfleet Nursery School provides accommodation for the daily care of children between the ages of 3 and 5 years. Priority is given to the children of mothers who must go to work in order to supplement insufficient wages ; widows, children living in unhealthy, cramped home conditions ; or where a doctor recommends admittance because of unsuitable home life. The staff is trained to deal with difficult children who need more psychological understanding than that provided at home.

Hours of attendance at the Nursery Schools are from 9 a.m. to 3-30 p.m. with normal school holiday periods. Meals are provided for the sum of 2/6d. per week. In addition to the ordinary diet, Ministry of Health Cod Liver Oil Compound, Orange Juice and two-thirds of a pint of milk may be given.

At present 40 children are accommodated at the Nursery—most of them being from the Northfleet Area—Application for admission should be made to the Superintendent, (Mrs. Dowker), at the Northfleet Nursery School, London Road, Northfleet.

TREATMENT OF ANTHRAX, BOTULISM, SNAKE-BITE AND MUSHROOM POISONING.

List of the nearest centres which keep emergency supplies of sera for the treatment of anthrax, botulism, snake-bite and mushroom (*Amanita phalloides*) poisoning. A 24-hour service is maintained at each centre.

	<i>Telephone No.</i>
Region 6 : N.E. Metropolitan North Middlesex Hospital, N.17. Day—Chief Pathologist Night—Resident Pathologist	Tottenham 3071
Region 7 : S.E. Metropolitan South East Sub-Depot, Weaving House, Ashford Road, Maidstone, Kent. Day Service Night Service	Maidstone 4468 Maidstone 3604 Maidstone 4660 Maidstone 3718
Region 8 : S.W. Metropolitan South London Blood Supply Depot, Stanley Road, Sutton, Surrey.	Vigilant 8221
The Dispensary, Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital (Snake Anti-Serum only)	Southampton 76211

REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

MR. D. A. GOUGH.

Hours of attendance :

6, Berkley Crescent, Gravesend.

Mondays	9-30—1 p.m.
Tuesdays	2-00—4 p.m.
Wednesdays	9-30—1 p.m.
Thursdays	9-30—1 p.m.
	2-00—4 p.m.
Fridays	9-30—1 p.m.
Saturdays	9-30—11 a.m.

36, Springhead Rd., Northfleet.

Mondays	2-00—4 p.m.
Fridays	5-00—6 p.m.

CONVALESCENT TREATMENT.

Three forms of convalescent treatment are available. These are for: -

- (1) Patients who have been ill and treated at home, but who still require nursing care and attention.
- (2) Patients who have been ill and treated at home, and who in the opinion of their doctor require a change of air.
- (3) Patients who have been hospital cases.

Patients in category (1) above, the doctor in charge should write to the Regional Board, Portland Place, London, asking for the 'Convalescent Home' Form.

In category (2) above, the doctor in charge should send a certificate to Dr. Elliott, County Hall, Maidstone, who will arrange convalescence at Homes situated in Herne Bay, Whitstable, etc.

Patients in category (3) above will have convalescence arranged by the Lady Almoner of the Hospital.

FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION.

Medway Towns Branch of the Family Planning Association announce that their Clinic is opening on Thursday, September 23rd, at All Saint's Hospital, Chatham (Ante-Natal Clinic). Thursday evenings—7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

HOME SAFETY.

In recent months, the gravity of the position in regard to accidents in the home has received considerable attention.

Many eminent people have underlined the seriousness of the position in regard to the taking up of bed-space in hospitals and the immense financial loss to the country caused by these accidents. This is no small problem when it is remembered that since 1949 some 31,674 fatal accidents have occurred.

It is generally agreed that while suitable legislation can do something to prevent home accidents, in the last resort it rests with the public to take the necessary precautions, and therefore education is of primary importance.

NORTHFLEET OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE COMMITTEE.

The Northfleet Old People's Welfare Committee continued its activities throughout the year.

The Committee, whose members are formed from various local organisations, is maintained by voluntary subscriptions and grants from charitable organisations.

It is affiliated to the Kent Council of Social Service, and its objects are to provide facilities for physical and mental recreation, the relieving of poverty, distress or sickness and the pursuing of any objects of a charitable nature not otherwise provided for by statutory authorities or local organisations.

During the year a valuable contribution to their work was obtained from the Alexandra Rose Day collection, the proceeds of which were equally shared with the Gravesend Old People's Welfare Committee and B.L.E.S.M.A.

Amongst other things, the Committee helped financially about 40 old people during the year, and provided vouchers to the value of six shillings each at Christmas.

It was also able to provide 12 outings for old people from Northfleet, due to a generous gesture of the Gravesend Old People's Welfare Committee in allowing the use of their coach. A total of 250 people were taken on tours of the seaside or country, many being chronic invalids ordinarily confined to their homes.

The services of a chiropodist, who, where necessary, visits folks in their homes, was most successful, and the scheme of home visiting is proving most valuable.

This Committee, which was formed in 1951, is progressing most satisfactorily, and doing valuable work under the Chairmanship of Councillor T. S. White. The Honorary Secretary is Mrs. I. Walter of 44, Seymour Road, Northfleet.

NORTHFLEET DIAMOND JUBILEE SAMARITAN FUND.

The following is an extract from a report on the work of the Fund during the year 1954, submitted by Mr. W. P. Grant, Hon. Secretary, Northfleet Diamond Jubilee Samaritan Fund: -

The following is a summary of the work of the Nursing during the year: -

Patients under treatment, 1st January, 1954	...	...	...	45
New patients during the year	...	...	...	148
			Total	193

Of these there have been: -

Cured or relieved	...	...	...	...	68
Admitted to Hospital	...	...	...	...	25
Admitted to Nursing Home	...	...	...	...	1
Left Northfleet	...	...	...	...	9
Died	...	...	...	...	47
Still under treatment, 31st December, 1954	...	...	...	...	43
			Total		193

The total number of visits paid by the Nurses during the year is 9,400, which is 485 more than last year and the largest and smallest weekly totals are 217 and 133. but the number of patients is 17 fewer.

It is interesting to note that two patients have been visited continuously for 7 years, two for 6 years and three for 5 years, and also that the number of deaths includes 20 who were between 70 and 79 years of age, 14 between 80 and 89 and 2 over 90, which means that an even larger number than last year, of very old people, have been well nursed and comforted at the ends of their long lives.

There has been no change in the personnel of the nursing staff, and the Committee wish to place on record their appreciation of the good work of Mrs. D. Paine, who has been with the Fund for 15 years, and Mrs. M. P. O'Flynn, both of whom have received the approval of the County Superintendent for their work.

C. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The statement below shows the number of cases of notifiable diseases occurring over the previous 5 years: -

	1950 No. Deaths		1951 No. Deaths		1952 No. Deaths		1953 No. Deaths		1954 No. Deaths	
Scarlet Fever	82	—	5	—	24	—	28	—	22	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	98	—	335	—	75	—	188	—	2	—
Enteric or Typhoid	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	74	—	100	1	61	—	55	2	91	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	16	7	20	5	14	4	17	5	6	5
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	3	—	4	—	1	—	1	—	2	—

Application for the admission of infectious diseases to hospital should be made to the Medical Superintendent of the River Hospital, Joyce Green, Telephone : Dartford 3231. In the case of smallpox, admission to hospital is arranged by the Consultant who diagnoses the disease or by the Medical Officer of Health on his behalf.

Scarlet Fever

Cases notified during year 22

Diphtheria

No cases were notified.

Poliomyelitis

No cases were notified.

SMALLPOX VACCINATION.

The level of infant vaccination in Kent during 1953 and 1954 was 58.98 per cent. and 59.98 per cent. respectively, compared with 34.2 per cent. and 34.5 per cent. for the whole of England and Wales. Although this can be regarded as reasonably satisfactory, a survey of the percentage of children born in 1953 and vaccinated in each district varies considerably throughout the County.

The level of vaccination in Northfleet was 72 per cent. and 76 per cent.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

I have received the following returns giving (a) the number of children resident in the district who were immunised against Diphtheria and (b) the number of persons who were vaccinated against smallpox during the year 1954.

(a)DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Year of Birth	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	Total
Primary Inoculations	39	208	14	10	1	10	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	286
Reinforcing Inoculations	—	—	—	—	—	31	150	12	4	1	2	2	—	—	—	202
(b) VACCINATION.																
Year of Birth	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	Before 1940
Primary Vaccination	159	70	3	2	2	1	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	5
Re-Vaccination	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	16
Total																21
The following return shows the number of children resident in the district and under the age of 15 years on the 31st December, 1954, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date, that is, at any time since 1st January, 1940.																
Year of Birth	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)	63	3	12	29	66	127	221	266	213	297	234	266	211	244	39	2231
1950—1954																
1949 or earlier	126	138	120	148	68	27	11	10	17	6	—	—	—	—	—	671

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following statement relates to the number of cases appearing on the Council's register at 31st December, 1954: -

	M.	Pulmonary F.	Total	M.	Non- Pulmonary F.	Total.	Pul. and Non-Pul. Totals
(a) No of cases of Tuberculosis on the register at the commencement of the year	117	81	198	11	9	20	218
(b) No. of cases remaining on register at the end of the year	122	83	205	11	9	20	225
(c) No. of cases notified during the year	11	8	19	1	—	1	20
(d) No. of deaths during the year	3	—	3	—	1	1	4

Ages and occupations of persons notified during the year are as follows: -

Age			Age		
M.	F.	Occupation	M.	F.	Occupation
62		Labourer		—	Not known
64		Labourer	56		Labourer
	4	Infant	30		Accountant
16		Seaman	55		Not known
69		Bricklayer		49	Housewife
40		Reelers Assistant		40	Cook
1		Infant		42	Housewife
	21	Bookbinder		41	Housewife
28		Fitter		22	Stenographer
35		Labourer	27		Accounts Clerk

MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

The Mid-Kent Mass Radiography Unit was active during the year in carrying out surveys of employees at industrial premises in the Northfleet area, and also volunteers from the general public at the Drill Hall in Springhead Road, as follows: -

	Males	Females	Total
Survey at Drill Hall, Northfleet	377	720	1,097
Industrial Surveys, Gravesend and Northfleet area	3,872	1,601	5,473

Of the 1,097 examined at the Drill Hall, 114 were recalled for large films. This was 10.3 per cent, of the total. Active tuberculosis was discovered in 2 cases, inactive tuberculosis in 46 and cancer of the lung in 1 case.

VENERAL DISEASES.

This Clinic, under the administration of the Medway and Gravesend Hospital Management Committee, is conducted by C. D. Routh, Esq., M.D., M.R.C.P. The following particulars refer to patients from Northfleet.

NEW PATIENTS (NORTHFLEET)

					Male	Female	Total
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Gonorrhoea	...	...	...	...	4	2	6
Non-venereal	...	...	...	...	16	2	18
					20	4	24
<hr/>							
Total No. of new patients from all areas	...	...	...	...	...	...	252
Total No. of attendances from all areas	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,408
Total No. of attendances from Northfleet	...	...	...	...	...	...	136
DISCHARGES (ALL DISTRICTS) CURED							
					Male	Female	Total
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	2	6	8
Gonorrhoea	...	...	...	...	17	11	28
Non-venereal	...	...	...	...	141	16	157
					160	33	193
<hr/>							

CIRCULAR 2831—PROMOTION OF CLEANLINESS, GOOD HABITS AND THE ELIMINATION OF VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

Cleansing Station, Brook Vale, Northfleet, is adapted for the cleansing of verminous persons, lethane is used in cases of infestation of the head. Clothing is disinfected by steam whilst patients are undergoing treatment.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 50.

It was necessary during the year to undertake the duty imposed on Local Authorities by Section 50 of the above Act, of arranging the funeral of one person, where no other suitable steps had been or were being made for the disposal of the body.

D.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF AREA.

Water Supply.

The public supply to Northfleet is provided by two wells situated at the Pumping Station, Downs Road, owned by the Gravesend and Milton Water Company, one being a deep well sunk in chalk and the other a borehole sunk to a depth of eight hundred feet to obtain water from the green sand stratum.

All supplies are chlorinated and dechlorinated at the source, and samples of raw water and treated water, before going into supply are submitted for bacteriological contamination at regular monthly intervals, and a chemical analysis at three monthly intervals. Altogether, during the year, a total of 24 samples of both untreated and treated water were submitted to the County Laboratories for bacteriological examination, and four samples were examined by the County Analyst.

It was not necessary during the year to take any action in respect of any form of contamination.

Practically the whole of the houses in the area are supplied from the public mains with an internal piped supply. Sixteen houses in the district are supplied by means of standpipes in the yard. These houses are old, and will be dealt with under the Council's programme of Slum Clearance in due course.

Sample, 1954 Date of	No. of Organisms per c.c. capable of growth on Agar at :		REMARKS
	37°C	22°C	
13th January	0	0	Good water.
	0	4	There is evidence of recent faecal contamination.
20th January	0	0	Good water.
	2	2	Good water.
	2	6	There is evidence of recent faecal contamination.
11th February	0	3	Good water.
	0	0	Good water.
	0	33	No evidence of recent faecal contamination.
	0	0	Good water.
18th March	0	0	Good water.
	0	6	Good water.
	0	0	Good water.
	0	0	No evidence of recent faecal contamination.
22nd April	0	1	Good water.
	0	10	Good Water.
	0	0	Good water.
	5	0	No evidence of recent faecal contamination.
13th May	0	0	Good water.
	0	0	Good water.
	0	0	Good water.
	0	0	Good water.
16th June	31	46	No evidence of recent faecal contamination.
	0	0	Good water.
	0	0	Good water.
	0	0	Good water.

Sample, 1954 Date of	No. of Organisms per c.c. capable of growth on Agar at :		REMARKS
	37°C	22°C	
14th July	0	0	No evidence of recent faecal con- tamination.
	0	0	Good water.
	0	0	Good water.
	0	9	Good water.
18th August	0	6	Good water.
	0	0	Good water.
	0	0	Good water.
	0	0	Good water.
15th September	31	54	No evidence of recent faecal con- tamination.
	0	0	Good water.
	0	0	Good water.
	0	0	Good water.
21st October.	0	0	Good water.
	2	5	No evidence of recent faecal con- tamination.
27th October	0	0	Good water.
	0	0	Good water.
24th November	0	0	Good water.
	5	0	Good water.
	0	0	Good water.
	0	0	Good water.
15th December	0	0	Good water.
	0	0	Good water.
	6	23	Good water.
	0	0	Good water.
22nd December	15	7	Good water.

In addition to submitting samples for bacteriological examination a chemical analysis is obtained from the Kent County Analyst, as necessary.

The Analyst's reports for 1954 are given below: -

	1	2	3
<i>Physical Characters.</i>	Clear	None	Clear
Odour	None	None	None
Deposit	None	None	None
pH	8.5	7.40	7.22

Chemical Examination. Parts per Million.

Solids in Suspension (Dried at 100 deg. C) ...	—	—	—
Solids in Solution (Dried at 180 deg. C) ...	350	355	316
Solids in Solution after Ignition	320	315	302
Chlorides calculated as Chlorine	16	18	17
Free and Saline Ammonia (as Nitrogen) ...	None	None	None
Albuminoid Ammonia (As Nitrogen) ...	None	None	None
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	2.0	4.0	5.0
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	None	None	None
Oxygen absorbed in $\frac{1}{4}$ hour at 26.7 deg. C ...	0.03	0.03	0.03
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 26.7 deg. C ...	0.06	0.05	0.07
Toxic Metals	Not Detected	Not Detected	Not Detected
Free and Combined Residual Chlorine on Receipt	Not Detected	Not Detected	Not Detected
Hardness: Permanent	36	42	7
Temporary	200	186	255

Bacteriological Examination.

Number of Colonies developing upon Agar			
(a) In two days at 37 deg. C	29	7	4
(b) In three days at 22 deg. C	520	19	16
Presumptive Coliform count per 100 ml. ...	None	None	None

All samples were fit for drinking.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The construction of the main southern sewer was well on the way to completion during the year. The immediate purpose of this sewer is to provide drainage facilities for the Council's new housing estates on the Painter's Ash Site. It will ultimately, however, be extended to take the New Barn, Istead Rise and Durndale Lane areas within the boundaries of Northfleet, and provision has been made in the design of the sewer for the drainage of Meopham and surrounding parts in the area of the Strood R.D.C. and the village of Southfleet and surrounding parts in the area of the Dartford R.D.C.

A further sewer extension was carried out in Bedford Road, to provide for 14 new Council houses constructed during the year, and the 5 houses already existing in the road.

The extension of these sewers made necessary enlargements at the sewage works, and a further revolving distributor filter was put into operation during the year and the sludge drying capacity was increased by 650 cubic yards.

Twenty-four samples of effluent taken from the sewage works at various points were found to be satisfactory.

HOUSING.

CLEARANCE AND DEMOLITION.

Section 25, Housing Act, 1936. 18 houses were demolished and 58 persons were rehoused during the year, under the provisions of Nos. 1 (1953) and 2 (1952) Clearance Areas.

Section 12, Housing Act, 1936. Two underground rooms were closed under this section during the year. The Council rehoused the occupants.

Section 10 (i) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953. During the year Closing Order was made in respect of one house. The Council rehoused the occupants.

Section 11, Housing Act, 1936. An undertaking for extensive repairs and reconstruction was accepted in respect of one house during the year.

Repair of Existing Houses. Details of properties repaired during the year are included in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS, ACT, 1954.

This Act, which came into operation during August 1954, provides two separate distinct approaches to housing. The first provides for the repair and demolition of unfit houses, and the second allows rent increases for expenditure incurred on repairs.

The first part of the Act required the preparation of a programme of Clearance of Unfit Houses, and its submission to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government within one year.

In Northfleet's case, this programme will be based upon the survey undertaken during 1943, which will be brought up-to-date in the light of present-day circumstances.

The second part of the Act provides the main and continuing tasks falling upon Local Authorities for dealing with applications for Certificates of Disrepair. These applications will arise where the landlord claims an increase of rent for expenditure incurred on repairs, and where the tenant is of the opinion that the house is not in a sufficiently good state of repair.

The Act is explicit on conditions which must be fulfilled before claims for rent increases can be made, and the Local Authority are required, in the first instance, to act as arbitrators where the tenant disputes the landlord's contention that the house is in a satisfactory condition.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Northfleet is a constituent member of the Thames-side Advisory Committee for the Abatement of Atmospheric Pollution. The Committee have a comprehensive system of air pollution measurement, and Northfleet has a standard deposit gauge situated at Huggens College. The following is the tabulated results obtained by this gauge for the 12 months ending 31st December, 1954: -

Monthly Deposit in Tons per square mile, 1954.						
	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June
Rain in inches	30	42	39	6	39	66
Water—insoluble Matter	674	649	657	797	1225	1099
Soluble in CS ₂	3	4	2	1	6	6
Ash	547	497	463	537	887	729
Other Combustible Matter	125	147	192	259	333	364
Total Water Soluble Matter	836	846	737	411	905	782
Calcium (Ca ⁺⁺)	204	193	191	154	192	242
Chloride (Cl')	47	39	30	24	51	36
Sulphate (SO ₄ '')	291	289	273	168	270	186
Total Solids	1510	1495	1394	1208	2130	1881
	July	August	Sept.	October	Nov.	Dec.
Rain in inches	68	72	32	39	86	30
Water—insoluble Matter	586	1001	522	343	661	440
Soluble in CS ₂	3	4	9	3	1	2
Ash	387	776	387	273	580	351
Other Combustible Matter	196	221	126	67	79	86
Total Water Soluble Matter	586	919	534	437	1046	665
Calcium (Ca ⁺⁺)	132	200	118	97	208	145
Chloride (Cl')	34	59	44	33	121	8
Sulphate (SO ₄ '')	149	259	145	159	402	242
Total Solids	1171	1920	1059	780	1707	1104

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MEAT.

The Ministry of Food announced during the year that the free marketing of meat was to commence during July, and in order to fully ensure that there was no interruption of the meat supplies during the changeover from centralisation, the Interdepartmental Commission issued certain recommendations.

Amongst other things the recommendations were that responsibility for ensuring that sufficient slaughterhouse accommodation was available should rest on local authorities. This recommendation was to be regarded as an interim measure until the policy of moderate concentration of slaughtering could be fully implemented.

In Northfleet's case, the Council met representatives from the Master Butcher's Association, and it appeared that there was a possibility that two applications to use slaughterhouses would be made. In one instance, a specification of the work required to the building was prepared, and agreement was reached as to the scope and extent of the use of the proposed slaughterhouse. Ultimately, however, the owner did not desire to pursue the application for licence, and this project was abandoned.

In the remaining case, owing to various unsatisfactory conditions prevailing at the proposed slaughterhouse, the Council were unable to grant a licence in respect of the premises.

The butchers in the area do not appear to have experienced difficulty in obtaining sufficient supplies and trade appears to have progressed uninterruptedly from the time of the changeover.

FOOD PREPARING PREMISES.

Restaurants, restaurant kitchens and canteens are subjected to routine inspection by the Sanitary Inspectors at regular intervals.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	<i>Cattle</i>			<i>Sheep</i>	
	<i>excluding</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
	<i>Cows</i>				
Number killed (if known)	Nil	Nil	—	—	—

MILK.

(A) *Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949. (Part III).*

No. of registered distributors	One
No. of registered dairies	One

(B) *Licences Granted* under Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949, excluding licenses granted by Food and Drug authorities in relation to milk pasteurised or sterilised on the premises of the applicant.

	<i>Dealers</i>	<i>Supplementary</i>
Pasteurised	4	8
Sterilised	30	4
T.T. (raw)	1	1
Accredited	Nil	Nil

	<i>Samples taken</i>	<i>No. of unsatisfactory samples</i>
(C) <i>Milk Sampling.</i>		
Pasteurised	24	2
T.T.	Nil	Nil
Sterilised	12	Nil
Accredited	Nil	Nil
Biological Examination of raw milks	Nil	Nil

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947 and 1948.

No premises in the district are registered for the manufacture of ice cream under these Regulations, but there are 53 premises registered for the sale of ice cream.

Thirty-five samples of ice cream were submitted to the County Laboratories during the year for the Methylene blue test, and the following results were obtained: -

<i>Grading</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>II</i>	<i>III</i>	<i>IV</i>
	28	7	—	—

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Northfleet Council is not a Food and Drugs Authority under the Food and Drugs Act, this part of the Act being administered by the Kent County Council under the direction of Mr. S. Strugnell, to whom I am indebted for the following information relating to the sampling of food which has taken place in the district during the year.

<i>Article</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>
Aspirin B.P.	1
Beef Sausages	2
Butterscotch Fingers	1
Children's Cough Mixture	1
Danish Blue Cheese	1
Devon Butterscotch	1
Double Strength Tomato Soup	2
Dr. Maclean's Stomach Powder	1
Easy Icing Sugar	1
Edam Cheese	1
Epsom Salts B.P.	1
Full Cream Milk Food with Vitamin D and Iron	1
Gees Linctus B.P.C.	1
Gees Linctus Pastilles	1
Gin	1
Iodised Throat Tablets	1
Lemon Cheese	1
Linseed Compound	1
Liver Salts	1
Marmalade	1
Meat Pies	1
Meat Pudding	1
Milk	28
Milk Flavouring Syrup	1
Oat Baby Cereal	1
Orange Squash	1
Patent Barley	1
Patent Groats	1
Phensic	1
Pilchards in Tomato Sauce	1
Pineapple Effervescing	1
Pork Sausages	5
Pure Dairy Cream	1
Pure Extract of Beef	1
Pure Fruit Syrup ; Raspberry	1
Rum	1
Stuffed Pork Roll	1
Sweetened Chocolate Milk	1
Whisky	3
Total	74

SUMMARY.

Milks	28
Drugs	5
Spirits	5
Others samples	31
	74

All the above samples were genuine with the exception of the following: -

<i>Sample of</i>	<i>Analysis</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
Double Strength Tomato Soup	Inferior. Fat 0.1 per cent, Total solids 15.9 per cent. Does not appreciably differ from an ordinary tomato soup. Double strength not justified. A negligible amount of butterfat.	Information passed to the Ministry of Food.
Double Strength Tomato Soup	Inferior. Fat 0.24 per cent. Total solids 15.9 per cent., Tomato solids 8.1 per cent. Amount of tomato solids does not appear to be in excess of ordinary tomato soup.	
Easy Icing Sugar	Inferior. Contained 1 per cent. maize starch—not declared.	Manufacturers cautioned.
Edam Cheese	Inferior. Fat 24 per cent. Moisture 41.86 per cent., Salt 2.28 per cent., Original milk fat content 2.4 per cent.	Manufacturer cautioned. Reported to Ministry of Food.
Pork Sausages	Inferior. Meat 59 per cent., Sulphite 220 p.p.m.	No action. Further samples to be taken.
Pork Sausages	Inferior. Meat 62 per cent., SO ₂ 330 p.p.m. Very slightly below standard.	Makers notified.
Pork Sausages	Inferior. SO ₂ 380 p.p.m.	
Meat Pudding	Inferior. Meat 21 per cent., Pastry 50 per cent. Label in wrong order.	Makers notified.

OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED.

The following is the summary of foods condemned as unfit for human consumption by the Sanitary Inspectors in the course of their routine duties during the year: -

<i>Articles condemned</i>			<i>Amount</i>	
			<i>lb.</i>	<i>ozs.</i>
Canned Meat	...	...	106	3
Canned Fruit	...	...	79	2½
Canned Vegetables	...	...	63	12½
Canned Preserves	...	...	15	
Canned Milk	...	...	8	4
Canned Meat Paste	...	...		5
Canned Fish	...	...		15
Raw Fish	...	...	38	
Turkey	...	...	9	6
Bovine Liver	...	...	8	
Meat	...	...	238	
Bacon	...	...	3	
Prunes	...	...	5	
Barley Chrystals	...	...		1
Peanut Butter	...	...		12
Jar Pickles	...	...		9¾
Jar Salad Cream	...	...		10 fluid ozs.
Fruit Juice	...	...		5½ fluid pts.
Fruit Cordial	...	...		3 fluid pts.
Tonic Wine	...	...		2 fluid pts.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1954.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
NORTHFLEET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure to submit by annual report for the year 1954.

The following tables give a general review of the work carried out: -

Number of complaints received during the year	...	...	...	881
Total number of visits made	...	...	...	3,376
Informal Notices served	...	...	...	213
Informal Notices complied with	...	...	...	164
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	49
Statutory Notices complied with	...	...	...	33
<i>Visits Made by Sanitary Inspectors during the year 1954 :-</i>				
Public Health Act, 1936	Primary visits	...	...	286
	Revisits	...	...	921
	Infectious Disease visits	...	...	39
	Filthy and verminous premises	...	...	41
	Water supply enquiries	...	...	1
	Drainage inspections	...	...	211
	Drainage tested	...	...	106
	Moveable dwellings	...	...	77
Housing Act, 1936	Primary visits	...	...	423
	Revisits	...	...	76
	Overcrowding survey	...	...	18
Food & Drugs Act, 1938	Food Preparing Rooms visited	...	...	129
	Samples taken: -			
	Ice cream	...	...	41
	Water	...	...	53
	Milk	...	...	36
	Sewage	...	...	23
	Foods condemned visits	...	...	16
Factories Acts, 1937 & 1948	Visits	...	...	38
	Revisits	...	...	1
Shops Acts	...	...	...	148
Revisits	...	...	...	6
Pest Extermination visits	...	...	...	147
Street Cleansing	...	...	...	15
Depots and Yards	...	...	...	128
Refuse Tip	...	...	...	88
Sewage works	...	...	...	14
House Refuse collection visits	...	...	...	42
Salvage	...	...	...	12
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	161
Smoke observations	...	...	...	9
Mortuary inspections	...	...	...	10
Public conveniences	...	...	...	10
Air pollution	...	...	...	31
Civil Defence	...	...	...	15
Animals	...	...	...	4

The following is a summary of nuisances and defects remedied during the year: -

Accumulations of offensive refuse etc., removed	...	...	...	2
Animals in an unfit state	...	...	...	4
Ceilings repaired or renewed	...	...	...	40
Cesspools repaired, septic tanks repaired or renewed	...	...	...	2
Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	17
Chimney flues repaired	...	...	...	9
Doors and frames repaired or renewed	...	...	...	12
Drainage Systems: -				
Drains repaired or reconstructed	...	...	...	4
Drains cleansed	...	...	...	87
Gully traps repaired or renewed	...	...	...	3
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed	...	...	...	25
Valley gutters repaired or renewed	...	...	...	1
Firegrates repaired or renewed	...	...	...	8
Fireplaces, brickwork and plasterwork repaired	...	...	...	1
Floors repaired or relaid	...	...	...	22
Floors, sub-floors ventilation provided	...	...	...	2
Rainwater downspouts repaired or renewed	...	...	...	20
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	87
Sinks repaired or renewed	...	...	...	6
Premises redecorated or cleansed	...	...	...	9
Pest extermination and verminous and filthy rooms disinfected and cleansed				9
Walls, brickwork damp-proofed	...	...	...	121
Walls, internal plasterwork repaired	...	...	...	77
Walls, external repaired	...	...	...	14
Water closets: -				
External structure repaired	...	...	...	12
Internal structure repaired	...	...	...	8
Flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	...	...	...	5
Pedestal pan and traps repaired	...	...	...	8
Water supply, pipes, etc., repaired	...	...	...	8
Windows, woodwork of frames, sashes or sills repaired or renewed	...	...	...	68
Sash lines provided	...	...	...	12
Yard surfaces repaired or renewed	...	...	...	8
Smoke nuisance	...	...	...	6

INFECTION AND DISINFECTION.

The Northfleet Council have an arrangement with the Strood Rural District Council and Swanscombe Urban District Council whereby facilities for disinfection of premises and articles are provided by the Northfleet Council, on a rechargeable basis. Infected articles are treated at the steam-disinfection station at Brookvale Depot, Northfleet, and the premises are sprayed with formalin solution and formaldehyde gas. Transport is provided by Northfleet.

During the year 102 visits were made investigating cases of infectious disease and supervising the work of disinfecting. After such disinfection it is emphasised to the householders that their premises should be thoroughly cleansed.

The following is the statement of disinfecting carried out during the year: -

	Northfleet	Swanscombe	Strood
Scarlet Fever	16	7	5
Tuberculosis	12	13	8
Cancer	1	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	1	—

INFESTATION AND DISINFESTATION.

Six premises were treated for bed bugs by spraying with a liquid insecticide followed by fumigation with sulphur candles. Bedding and clothing also, where necessary, being treated at the Brookvale Depot.

The services of the steam-disinfector are also made available to the Swanscombe U.D.C. and the Strood R.D.C., when required.

BAKEHOUSES.

The four bakehouses operating within the district were regularly visited during the year, and found to be in a satisfactory condition.

RATS AND MICE.

A scheme of pest control operated on lines approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is now in operation in the district. The following is a summary of the work carried out: -

Premises inspected during the year	...	...	...	1,159
Premises found to be infested with rats	...	...	...	118
Premises found to be infested with mice	...	...	..	21
Premises treated by Local Authority	...	...	...	139

DRAIN TESTING

In addition to existing drainage all new drainage works are inspected and tested by the Sanitary Inspectors. During the year 211 inspections were made and on 106 occasions tests of the various systems were carried out.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The following list shows details of factories inspected during the year 1954: -

Inspections.

	Number on Register.	Inspections.	Number of Notices.	Prose- cutions.
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	7	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Sec. 7 applies	32	32	2	Nil
Total	38	39	2	Nil

(2) Cases in which defects were found.

	No. of cases in which defects were found.				
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspect- ors	By H.M. Inspect- ors.	Prose- cutions.
Want of Cleanliness (S1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of floors (S6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2	2	—	—	—

PUBLIC CLEANSING DEPARTMENT.

During the year 7,286 tons (estimated) of refuse were collected and disposed of by means of controlled tipping.

CESSPOOL AND GULLEY EMPTYING.

During the year 142 cesspools were emptied. The cesspool emptying vehicle is also used for emptying and cleansing surface water gulleys on the highways, and storm-well soakaways.

As new houses and roads come into use the services of this particular vehicle for catchpit and gulley emptying is being increasingly required.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. S. COWPLAND,

Chief Sanitary Inspector,

Cleansing Superintendent.